

Fascinating INSIGHTS

כ' תמוז תשפ"ד
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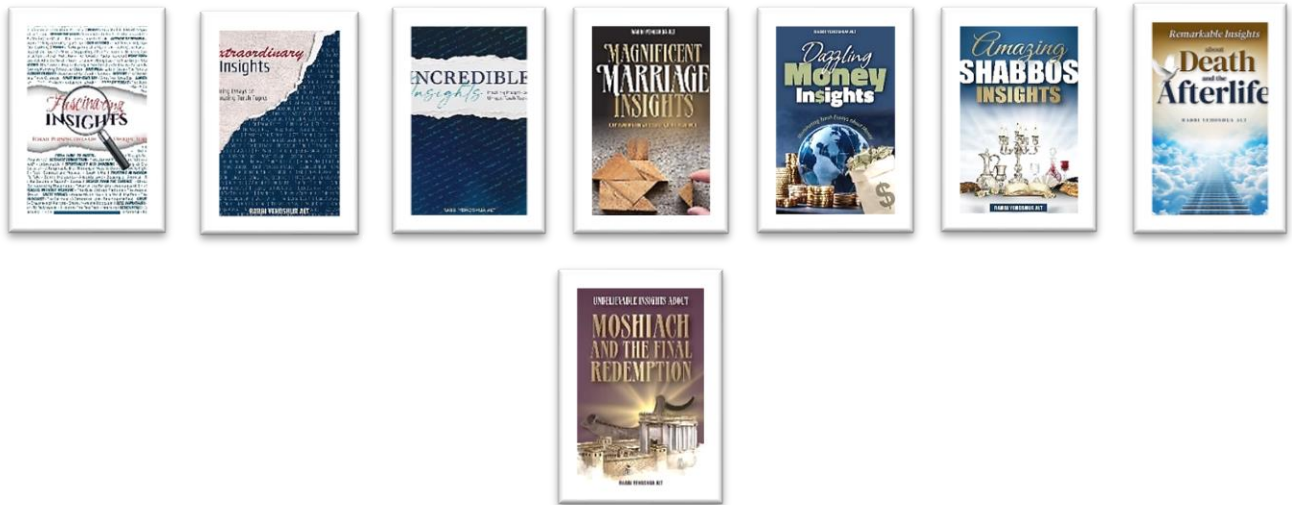
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[A House Designated from Heaven](#)

A house is comprised of that which is below it, above it and of course the structure itself. That is, the

foundation below, the ceiling above and the house itself. This is hinted to in the word בית, as it serves as an acronym for תקרה, בית, יסוד, foundation, house, ceiling.¹

¹ See the Vilna Gaon to Mishlei 3:33.

The letter ב spelled out (בֵּית) spells בית, house. The construction of the letter ב alludes to the three aforementioned parts: The bottom of the *beis* refers to the foundation while the upper part alludes to the ceiling. In between these two is of course the house itself which is represented by the middle part of the construction of the letter ב.²

We are instructed יהי ביתך פתוח לרוחה³, let your house be open wide making it a center of hospitality. This teaching is reflected in the letter ב, which as we mentioned alludes to a house. The letter ב is **open** on the left side, hinting to us that a person should have his house **open** to others.



Many people in their quest for a house have been disappointed. One house was too expensive while another one was too far of a distance. Another one they were about to purchase but then the deal fell through. We must keep in mind that each person's house is already designated for them and as a result they can go about this endeavor serenely. This is explicitly stated in the gemara⁴ which says that forty days before the formation of an embryo a *bas kol*, Heavenly voice issues forth and proclaims this particular house is destined for so-and-so (בית פלוני לפלוני).

Zooming for Zealotry

We are taught that "Pinchas is Eliyahu."⁵ Shouldn't it say Eliyahu was Pinchas since Pinchas lived before Eliyahu? When someone hears of Pinchas, he may think aggressive with a short fuse based on his act of zealotry.⁶ On the other hand when one thinks of Eliyahu, he thinks of pleasantness, as Eliyahu is the one associated with the redemption. The phrase "Pinchas is Eliyahu" is telling us that it is the same person. Pinchas was a zealot at that time because that's what was Hashem's will then. However, the real Pinchas is Eliyahu, someone who is calm and associated with pleasantness, not a zealot.



This is analogous to the difference between a housewife and a cat chasing a mouse. The cat wants there

² Tangentially the letter ב (representing the בית, house) has a gematria of two. This refers to the husband and wife, the heads of the house.

³ Avos 1:5.

⁴ Sota 2a.

⁵ Zohar Pinchas 215a. Also see Pirkei D'Rebbi Eliezer, Chapter 29, Rashi to Baba Metzia 114b, s.v. *lav* and Targum Yonasan ben Uziel

to be a mouse and is happy when there is one, in contrast to a housewife who is disgusted by mice.

In our case, Pinchas wasn't looking for someone to unleash on as he would rather there be no such person like that. However the situation called for his act of zealotry and thus he acted accordingly.

Public Acknowledgment

The Teshuvos Harashba⁷ tells us that there is a mitzva to publicize the names of those who donate for community needs.



This is hinted to in the pasuk dealing with charitable contributions to the Mishkan, זה הדבר אשר צוה ה' לאמר,⁸ this is the word that Hashem has commanded saying. While tzedakah should ideally be given anonymously like מתן בסתר יכפה אף,⁹ an anonymous gift will cover up anger, when it comes to donations for holy purposes, for the needs of the public, צוה ה' לאמר, it is a mitzva to say, to publicize the donors' names. This public acknowledgment is in order to set an example and encourage others to do the same.¹⁰

Rabbi Alt merited to learn under the tutelage of R' Mordechai Friedlander ztz"l for close to five years and received semichah from R' Zalman Nechemia Goldberg ztz"l. Rabbi Alt has written on numerous topics for various websites and publications and is the author of eight books including the recently released "Unbelievable Insights about Moshiach and the Final Redemption." His writings, many of which have been translated into Yiddish, Hebrew, German and French, inspire people across the spectrum of Jewish observance to live with the vibrancy and beauty of Torah. His shiurim can be found on various websites including Kol Halashon's. Rabbi Alt lives with his wife and family in Kiryat Yearim (where the Aron was for 20 years [Shmuel 1, 7:1,2]) where he studies, lectures, writes and teaches. The author is passionate about teaching Jews of all levels of observance.

Vaera 6:18. Additionally, the haftorah of Parshas Pinchas is about Eliyahu.

⁶ Bamidbar 25:7-8.

⁷ 1:581.

⁸ Shemos 35:4.

⁹ Mishlei 21:14.

¹⁰ Otzar Hayedios Volume 2, p. 364.